



March 29, 2022

Minnesota House of Representatives  
Human Services Finance Committee  
473 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Schultz and Members of the Committee,

The Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP) appreciates the opportunity to provide written public testimony in support of HF3568 which reforms Housing Support income calculations to allow people with SSI and veterans benefits to retain more of their personal income. LSAP is a statewide division of Legal Aid, providing policy advocacy on issues affecting low-wealth Minnesotans, children, seniors, and Minnesotans with disabilities in legislative and administrative forums.

LSAP's public benefits advocacy embraces a fundamental principle that every Minnesotan experiencing poverty deserves access to shelter, food, and health care as a matter of human right. LSAP is acutely aware of the ways in which a complex system of state and federal public benefits laws intentionally and unintentionally create barriers to access. These access and participation barriers often fall disproportionately on communities of color.

Here, income calculations are creating a serious barrier to the Housing Support benefit. By removing these income calculation barriers, the State can enroll more people in Housing Support and help reduce the strain on emergency shelters. Further, this change supports individuals who are working towards program independence by helping them build the savings necessary for greater housing and financial stability.

We are grateful that Representative Her has introduced this reform and we respectfully request your support.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "d. h.", is written over a faint, light blue circular watermark.

Staff Attorney  
Legal Services Advocacy Project